

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Previously Canceled)
2. (Previously Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Canceled)
6. (Previously Canceled)
7. (Previously Canceled)
8. (Previously Canceled)
9. (Previously Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)
15. (Canceled)
16. (Canceled)
17. (Canceled)
18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A boot for a universal shaft coupling formed by a rubber elastic body, and forming a bellows portion between a small-diameter ring portion and a large-diameter ring portion,

wherein linear separated portions are formed along a generatrix from the small-diameter ring portion to the large-diameter ring portion, both sides of said separated portions are formed thick, and a fastener pair is arranged in said separated portions, and a portion between said separated portions is thinner than said separated portions and is formed in a substantially uniform thickness so as to form a general portion connected in a peripheral direction,

wherein said fastener pair is constituted by a band-like first occluding portion formed along one end edge of said separated ~~portion~~ portions and provided with a bulge locking portion in a leading end, and a band-like ~~occluded~~ second occluding portion provided with a occluding groove occluding with said first occluding portion along another end edge of said separated ~~body~~ portions, and

wherein both side cross sections of a base portion of the bulge locking portion in said first occluding portion are formed as angular portions, and both side cross sections of a base portion of ~~the~~ a bulge receiving portion in the ~~occluded~~ occluding groove ~~correspondence~~ corresponding to said bulge locking portion in said ~~occluded~~ second occluding portion are formed as curved portions compressing said angular portions.

20. (Currently Amended) A boot for a universal shaft coupling as claimed in claim 19,

wherein a guide fin provided with a guide surface at a position partly overlapping the first occluding portion at a time of the first occluding portion facing to said second occluding portion, is formed so as to protrude only to each said crest portion side of said bellows portion, in an inner side of said occluding groove on an ~~occluded-portion~~ side end surface of the second occluding portion of said separated portions.

21. (Previously Presented) A boot for a universal shaft coupling as claimed in claim 19, wherein each of said separated portions is bulged to the inner side so as to be formed as a thick portion.

22. (Previously Presented) A boot for a universal shaft coupling as claimed in claim 19, wherein a grease return rib is provided in a first inner peripheral surface in a side of said large-diameter ring portion.

23. (Previously Presented) A boot for a universal shaft coupling as claimed in claim 20, wherein each of said separated portions is bulged to the inner side so as to be formed as a thick portion.

24. (Previously Presented) A boot for a universal shaft coupling as claimed in claim 20, wherein a grease return rib is provided in a first inner peripheral surface in a side of said large-diameter ring portion.